GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
SATELLITE DATA FOR EARTHQUAKE
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French, Japanese and Scientists of few other countries have been applying satellite data for earthquake prediction;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for disaster prediction, prevention and mitigation;

(c) if so, whether the Government has any plan for development of warning system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): The satellite data have been used by geoscientists in different countries in research and development related to earthquakes. Satellite data have proved inadequate in earthquake prediction. At present there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to predict the occurrence of earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, time and magnitude. However, losses due to earthquake may be considerably reduced through proper planning and adoption of building codes prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards.

(c) &(d): At present the scientific knowledge for predicting earthquakes is inadequate. It is not feasible to establish a warning system for earthquakes.